



Serial number: Dispatch number: 398563 Dispatch date: 8 July 2008

Notification of reasons for refusal

Patent application number: 2004-514310

Issue date: 3 July 2008

Japanese Patent Office examiner: Bekki Kazuo 9852 5G00

Agent for patent application: Itami Masaru

Relevant legal basis: Article 29 Clause 2

The above application is rejected for the following reasons. Any comments concerning this matter should be submitted within sixty days of the dispatch date of this notification.

Reasons for refusal

The invention according to the claims listed below of the present application is unpatentable (not entitled to receive a patent) on account of the regulations of Article 29 Clause 2 of the Japanese Patent Law, since it could have been easily invented by a person with an ordinary level of skill in the relevant art prior to the present application, on the basis of inventions recited in the below-listed publications or inventions publicly utilizable by way of electronic communications and available prior to the present application either in Japan or overseas.

Details (for references see reference table)

- Concerning claims 1-3, see References 1 and 2

Reference 1 recites that, in a keypad formed to provide a plurality of keys with a width that is different in the lengthways/longitudinal and sideways/lateral directions (keys which are long in the sideways/lateral direction), each key is positioned in a diagonally directed manner such that the long directions (long sides) are aligned in a top right to bottom left direction (see Fig. 2A).

Reference 2 discloses keys that have numerals allocated to the center and different characters and so on allocated to both neighboring

extremities of that center, and are provided with contact points so that, when the extremity of a key is depressed, it is possible to input the characters and so on allocated to that part of the key (see particularly paragraphs 0023-0025, 0028, 0029, and Figs. 1-5).

Concerning both extremities of the keys which are long in the sideways/lateral direction of Reference 1, it would be easy for a person familiar with the technology to think of providing contact points to make possible the input of different characters as recited in Reference 2.

- Concerning claim 4, see References 1 and 2

Conversion of Roman letters to Japanese is generally-known (common) technology.

- Concerning claims 5 and 6, see References 1 and 2

Reference 2 discloses the technological idea that, when depressing the central portion allocated with numerals, contact is made at the contact points of both extremities, and it is through this that it is possible to make the input corresponding to the depressed central portion (see particularly Fig. 5).

- Concerning claim 7, see References 1 and 2

Concerning the keypad recited in Reference 1, examples are shown of its provision in a mobile phone (see paragraphs 0001 and 0019).

Reference table

1. JP2001-094654A
2. JPH05-265618A

In the case that any new reasons for refusal are discovered, these will be notified. Please note that, in the case of carrying out amendments, explanation should be provided in the Comments/Arguments concerning which entries of the original specification and so on of the application the amendments concerned may be drawn from and concerning how the pre-and post-amendment claims correspond to each other.

Record of results of prior art reference survey

• Field of survey IPC version 7
H04M 1/02 - 1/23

• Prior art references

JP2002-094637A

JPH11-509671W

JPS60-231253A

JP2000-165499A

JP2002-344583A

JPS62-030451Y

This record of results of prior art reference survey does not constitute a reason for refusal.

Please contact the person below with any queries about the contents of this notification of reasons for refusal or with any requests for interview.

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拒絶理由通知書



特許出願の番号	特願 2004-514310
起案日	平成 20 年 7 月 3 日
特許庁審査官	戸次 一夫 9852 5G00
特許出願人代理人	伊丹 勝 様
適用条文	第 29 条第 2 項

この出願は、次の理由によって拒絶をすべきものです。これについて意見がありましたら、この通知書の発送の日から 60 日以内に意見書を提出してください。

理 由

この出願の下記の請求項に係る発明は、その出願前に日本国内又は外国において、頒布された下記の刊行物に記載された発明又は電気通信回線を通じて公衆に利用可能となった発明に基いて、その出願前にその発明の属する技術の分野における通常の知識を有する者が容易に発明をすることができたものであるから、特許法第 29 条第 2 項の規定により特許を受けることができない。

記 (引用文献等については引用文献等一覧参照)

・請求項 1 ~ 3 について引用文献 1, 2

引用文献 1 には、縦横の幅を異にするキー（横長のキー）を複数設けることによって形成されたテンキーにおいて、各キーがその長手方向が右上から左下に向かう方向になるように斜めに向いた形で配置されることについて記載されている（図 2A を参照）。

引用文献 2 には、中央に数字、その両隣端に異なる文字等が割り付けられ、端部を押下した際に、その箇所に割り当てられた文字等を入力することができるよう接点が設けられたキーが開示されている（特に、段落【0023】～【0025】、【0028】、【0029】及び図 1～5 を参照）。

引用文献 1 の横長のキーの両端について、引用文献 2 に記載されているような異なる文字の入力を可能とするように接点を設けることは、当業者であれば容易に想到し得たことである。

・請求項 4 について引用文献 1, 2

ローマ字／日本語変換は、一般的な技術である。

- ・請求項 5, 6について引用文献 1, 2

引用文献 2には、数字の割り当てられた中央部を押下した場合、両端の接点が共に接触し、それによって当該押下に対応した入力を行えるという技術思想も開示されている（特に、図 5 を参照）。

- ・請求項 7について引用文献 1, 2

引用文献 1記載のテンキーについては、携帯電話機に設けられることが例示されている（段落【0001】，【0019】を参照）。

引 用 文 献 等 一 覧

1. 特開2001-094654号公報
2. 特開平05-265618号公報

拒絶の理由が新たに発見された場合には拒絶の理由が通知される。なお、補正を行う際には、当該補正が本願の当初明細書等のどの記載から導き出すことができるのかについて、及び補正前後の請求項の対応関係について意見書で説明されたい。

先行技術文献調査結果の記録

・調査した分野 I P C 第 7 版
H 0 4 M 1 / 0 2 - 1 / 2 3

・先行技術文献

特開2002-094637号公報
特表平11-509671号公報
特開昭60-231253号公報
特開2000-165499号公報
特開2002-344583号公報
実開昭62-030451号公報

この先行技術文献調査結果の記録は、拒絶理由を構成するものではない。

この拒絶理由通知の内容に関するお問い合わせ、または面接のご希望がございましたら下記までご連絡下さい。

整理番号: 発送番号:398563 発送日:平成20年 7月 8日 3/E

特許審査第四部 電話通信 戸次 一夫(べつき かずお)

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21.08.08

Reference RSJ08474EP	Application No./Patent No. 03720970.7 - 1245 / 1515524 PCT/JP0305469
Applicant/Proprietor Yamane, Mitoku	

Communication

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the supplementary European search report under Article 153(7) EPC for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

Refund of the search fee

If applicable under Article 9 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	GB 2 346 508 A (NIPPON ELECTRIC CO [JP]) 9 August 2000 (2000-08-09) * page 1, lines 1-10 * * page 4, lines 8-12 * * page 8, lines 11-13; figure 9 * * page 11, line 26 – page 12, line 4 * * page 12, lines 8-13; figure 3 * * page 14, lines 18-25 * * page 15, lines 5-12,18-23; figure 1 * -----	1-7	INV. H04M1/02
X	US 5 861 823 A (STRAUCH GARY J [US] ET AL) 19 January 1999 (1999-01-19)	1-3,7	
A	* column 2, lines 26-28,34,35,56-62; figures 1-3,6 * * column 5, lines 65,66 * * abstract *	6	
A	DE 100 12 328 A1 (KENEDER MANFRED [DE]) 27 September 2001 (2001-09-27) * figure 1 *	1,2	
	-----		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			G06F H04M
11	The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.		
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		13 August 2008	Trönnberg, Carlo
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 03 72 0970

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

13-08-2008

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
GB 2346508	A	09-08-2000	JP US	2000165499 A 2003063739 A1		16-06-2000 03-04-2003
US 5861823	A	19-01-1999		NONE		
DE 10012328	A1	27-09-2001		NONE		